

PATENT USSN: 09/901,339
Atty Dkt: 034044.031

REMARKS

The Office action mailed 28 July 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. The pending claims are 1-8, 15 and 16. Claims 1-7 and 15 are allowed and claims 8 and 16 are rejected. By this amendment, claims 8 and 16 are canceled. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as the Examiner deemed that they were unpatentable over Nguyen and Sauter, et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended obviate this rejection. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should properly be withdrawn.

Applicants note that in order to further prosecution of the present application, claims 8 and 16 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file an application covering the subject matter of claims 8 and 16 while this application is copending and if such an application is filed, cancellation of claims 8 and 16 herein is not an admission that the claimed subject matter is obvious as asserted by the Examiner.

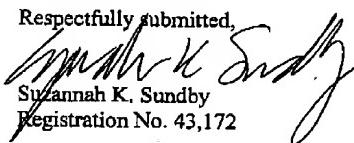
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CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Attorney Docket No. 034044.031.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 27 October 2004

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- transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.

On 27 October 2004, by Suzannah K. Sundby

Signed:

